

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed April 11, 2007, and the Advisory Action mailed on June 26, 2007 which have been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-3 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--, and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1-3 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0140757 (Tyan). It is respectfully resubmitted that claims 1-18 are patentable over Tyan for at least the following reasons.

It is respectfully submitted that Tyan is not prior art to the present application. The present application was PCT filed on June 19, 2003, which published in English as WO 2004/004421 and designates the U.S., and claims the benefit of a European Patent Application filed on January 28, 2002, which is thus the effective filing date of the present application.

As the effective filing date of the present application of January 28, 2002 is before the Tyan U.S. filing date of January 17, 2003, Tyan is not available as prior art with regard to the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

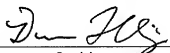
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1-18 be allowed.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of

argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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Enclosure: New Abstract

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